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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02801 111438Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 111355Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8276

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: MESSAGE TO BITSIOS

REF: STATE 082517

1. I SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS ON THE TELEPHONE THIS MORNING AND PASSED HIM THE BRIEF ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY CONTAINED REFTEL CONCERNING THE REFERENCE TO GREECE IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT. BITSIOS DID NOT YET HAVE THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH AND I SENT IT TO HIM IMMEDIATELY. BITSIOS SAID TO CONVEY HIS THANKS TO THE SECRETARY FOR HIS MESSAGE.

2. WHEN I TRIED TO DRAW BITSIOS OUT ON HIS REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S REFERENCES TO GREECE IN THE SPEECH, HE DEMURRED SAYING THAT HE WOULD RATHER DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ME LATER. HE WENT ON TO SAY HE WAS NOT FEELING AT ALL WELL, HAVING SUFFERED DURING THE NIGHT FROM FOOD POISONING AND HAD DECIDED TORETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HIS RESIDENCE. WE AGREED TO GET TOGETHER OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN HE IS FEELING BETTER AND HE SAID HE WOULD CALL ME TOMORROW TO ARRANGE THE TIME.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BITSIOS WAS UNWILLING THIS MORNING TO COMMENT ON THE MATTER--PROBABLY WANTING TO COORDINATE FIRST WITH CARAMANLIS, PAPALIGOURAS AND AVEROFF-- I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE REGISTERED SOME CONCERN
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WITH ME THIS WEEKEND ABOUT OUR PUBLIC REFERENCES TO POSSIBLE

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ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, SINCE THEY HAVE HELD OUR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS VERY CLOSELY THUS FAR.

4. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE MY BEST CHANCE FOR A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS BEFORE HE AND CARAMANLIS LEAVE NEXT WEDNESDAY FOR PARIS. IF THERE IS ANYTHING SPECIAL THE DEPARTMENT WISHES ME TO TAKE UP WITH HIM IN THIS TIME FRAME IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE INSTRUCTIONS BY THE OPENING OF BUSINESS TOMORROW MORNING, APRIL 12.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0108
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750460/aaaacdck.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 082517
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH: MESSAGE TO BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, (FORD, GERALD R), (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006